

# Four Important Questions Raised By Red Russia's Space Satellite

What Is Wrong With American Effort and What Must Be Done to Overcome Soviets' Lead?

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THE psychological effect of the Soviet success in getting the first baby moon or earth satellite into an orbit around the earth Oct. 4 and their announcement Aug. 26 of successful "tests" of intercontinental ballistic rockets, another first, has been more disastrous to American prestige than any other events since the first world war.

It creates doubt in the minds of our allies that the United States is the leading technical and industrial nation in the world and an arsenal upon which they can depend. The United States has held this leading position since World War I when Field Marshal von Hindenburg blamed the pitiless American war industry for Germany's defeat.

## Cynical European Reaction.

The writer has just returned from Europe and has seen the cynical observations in the European press to the effect that United States citizens must view an image of their earth satellite in a window while the Soviet moon is traversing the earth's orbit 90 minutes.

The effect is equally pronounced in the Soviet Union and Eastern European satellite states. It breeds the superiority of Soviet technology over the American and tends to smother any hope that the United States can come in their aid in the event of an attempt to break away from the Soviet bloc.

The United States has been riding on the prestige of being the first to explode nuclear weapons and its large stockpile and on its great delivery capability. American officials have often boasted of the capability of destroying the Soviet Union in the event of aggression. The Russians and east Europeans are in doubt as to the reality of their comparative

First, what is the real effect of the Soviet success with ballistic rockets on comparative military power;

Secondly, how was Soviet science and industry able to develop and produce ballistic rockets ahead of the United States when our appropriations for missiles and research and development on them are currently almost three billion dollars a year;

Thirdly, what is wrong with our program, organization or science that we have been left behind in this field; and

Finally, what steps must be taken to overcome the Soviet lead and exceed their medium- and long-range ballistic rocket capability.

## Known For Three Years.

It is misleading to attempt to play down and cast doubt on the Soviet accomplishment and its significance. There is no question about the facts; and for at least three years the intelligence community has known of the great effort being made in the Soviet Union on missile development and has been aware of its successes.

These were in several steps proceeding from medium to intermediate and finally to intercontinental ballistic missiles, more properly called rockets, with the capability of carrying nuclear warheads.

The Soviet medium-range ballistic rocket, with a range of up to 800 miles, became operational late in 1955. These are employed in Eastern Europe now and can reach most of Western Europe and England.

There were innumerable tests of this ballistic rocket and of the intermediate-range (about 2500 miles) ballistic missile last year and at times this year they have been carried out daily. As a result of all this testing, the Soviet armed forces have a fully dependable propellant and launching and guidance system.

Emplacement are being built for launching the intermediate ballistic missile and are probably in operation now. Agreements were recently reached, according to the Communist press, with Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany for launching sites.

While the intercontinental ballistic missile has been satisfactorily tested—six or seven times according to our intelligence, but 10 according to foreign—its launching sites are under construction. It probably is a year away from operational use. That is the measure of time before the United States can be threatened with a nuclear warhead coming out of the sky like a meteor, visible for 10 or 11 seconds before it bursts and destroys everything within a radius of 10 miles.

It is apparent from Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin's note to the Prime Minister of Norway, warning him about the dangers of United States bases on Norwegian soil, that the Soviet's expect to use "dirty" thermonuclear warheads for he

warned that the destructiveness of Soviet weapons covered an area of several hundred kilometers in radius. Only radioactive fallout fits this description.

This is confirmed in an interview broadcast by the Soviet news agency Tass with Soviet Air Marshal Constantin Vershinin Sept. 8. He said: "The modern destructive means of warfare makes it unnecessary for a plane or a rocket to be aimed accurately to hit a military base."

The significant radioactive fallout from our "dirty" bomb in the Pacific in 1954 covered an area of 25,000 square miles with an initial radioactivity of 50 roentgens or more. This was admitted by the Atomic Energy Commission two years later. The first AEC statement, made nine months after the bomb had been exploded spoke of 7000 square miles, but this was the affected area 36 hours after the burst and considerable radioactive decay had decreased it.

## Russians' Own Estimate.

The Russians have stated what they think the significance of their rocket capability is to be. Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgi Zhukov, in a visit to Budapest—part of his mission was to arrange for rocket sites—May 28 declared: "Regarding the military bases located around the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy, in which great hopes are placed by the political and military leaders of the capitalist camp, since the emergence of ballistic and other rockets of great power, speed and precision, these bases have already lost their former importance."

Vershinin said in the interview previously quoted: "The Soviet Union has powerful means to strike back at the aggressor with staggering blows of a force and scale that would wipe out all the bases ringing the Soviet Union."

In this he includes the military establishments in Europe.

Later he said: "But the calculation that America's remoteness will safeguard it from military blows in case of another world war is no longer tenable. The means for conveyance for hydrogen bombs, the most formidable weapons, make it possible to bring them instantly to the remotest areas of any continent."